

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Supplemental Application Data Sheet

A supplemental Application Data Sheet (ADS) is filed herewith. In the supplemental ADS, the application number of the Japanese priority application is corrected to be 2002-378881, instead of 2002-37881 which was incorrectly entered on the original ADS. Applicant requests a corrected Official Filing Receipt reflecting this correction.

Rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 presently stand rejected as being indefinite. In particular, the examiner notes that the alternate phrase “on either the central pillar or the positioning hole” renders claim 1 indefinite. The examiner further asserts that the alternative recitation is misdescriptive. Also, the examiner notes that “the other” lacks proper antecedent basis.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite “one of the central pillar and the positioning hole” to remove the alternate phrase. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended recitation is not misdescriptive when read in the context of the claim limitation wherein the recitation appears.

Referring to the specification, the shuttle member 23, in one embodiment, is supported on the central pillar 21 while the shuttle member 23 is in an indirect tapering engagement with the positioning hole 12. Conversely, in another embodiment, the shuttle member 23 is supported on the positioning hole 12 while the shuttle member 23 is in an indirect tapering engagement with the central pillar 21. Therefore, the recitation of claim 1 is consistent with, and clearly descriptive of, the embodiments set forth in the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that, with the elimination of the alternate phrase "on either the central pillar or the positioning hole," proper antecedent basis for "the other" is provided in that the recitation of "one of the central pillar and the positioning hole" leaves no ambiguity as to which is "the other."

In view of the amendments made to claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowed claims

The examiner's indication that claims 4 and 5 are allowed is noted with appreciation.

Conclusion


In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-8 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

Respectfully submitted,

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